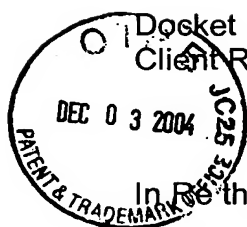


Docket Number: 081468-0305337
Client Reference: P-0161.012-US

PATENT APPLICATION



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re the Application of

Yim Bun Patrick KWAN

Group Art Unit: 5288

Application No.: 10/649,608

Examiner: Nguyen

Filed: August 28, 2003

For: BALANCED POSITIONING SYSTEM FOR USE IN LITHOGRAPHIC APPARATUS

December 3, 2004

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the following information, attached hereto as Appendix A. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance.

Please charge Deposit Account 033975 in the amount of \$180.00 in payment of the fee under 37 CFR 1.17(p). Please credit or debit Deposit Account 033975 as needed to ensure consideration of the disclosed information.

Respectfully submitted,

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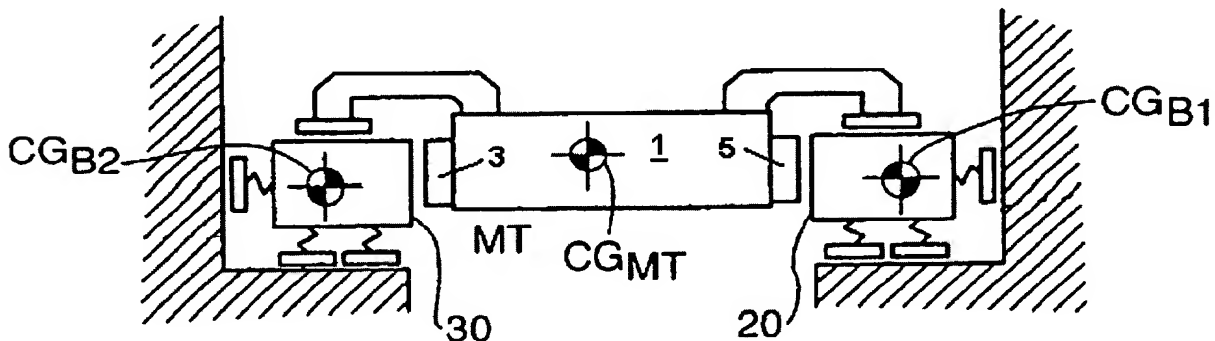
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APPENDIX A

1. On information and belief, prior to December 19, 1999 the assignee of US Patent Application No. 10/649,608 ("assignee") provided a price quotation ("the quotation") regarding the transfer of a lithographic apparatus, the design of which incorporated a balanced object positioning system.
2. On information and belief, the recipient of the quotation was an entity separate from and unrelated to assignee and located within the United States.
3. On information and belief, according to the design at that time, the balanced object positioning system to be incorporated in the lithographic apparatus was substantially as shown in the figure below.



4. On information and belief, the design included first and second balance masses (20, 30) disposed along opposite sides of an object table (MT) for holding a mask.
5. On information and belief, the balance masses were designed to be substantially free to translate in at least a first direction, e.g., in and out of the page as shown in the figure.
6. On information and belief, the design of the system further included a pair of motors for moving the object table. Each motor was designed to incorporate two cooperating electromagnetic members, a respective first member of each pair (3, 5) was to be mounted to the object table, the respective second member (not shown) was to be mounted to a respective one of the balance masses.
7. On information and belief, the object table was designed to be substantially free to translate in at least the first direction and to be supported by the balance masses.